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Letter dated 9 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith 34 medical reports* from a single hospital in the city of Homs concerning the bodies of unidentified Syrian citizens who had been killed by armed terrorist gangs. The bodies were discovered in Homs governorate in a period of less than two weeks in the month of November 2011.

Those reports and the pictures contained therein demonstrate the shocking nature of the crimes that armed terrorist groups have committed against innocent Syrian civilians. Those groups have killed their victims by various means, including shooting, strangulation and burning, and then mutilated the bodies. The reports and pictures also give an indication as to who is responsible for committing these crimes: the hands of several of the victims had been bound behind their backs, which has become the hallmark of the terrorist groups' crimes.

In that connection, we would like to note that, as at 15 March 2012, the Syrian authorities have discovered more than 350 other unidentified bodies and are conducting investigations to determine the victims' identities with a view to returning their bodies to their families. It should be noted that 5 of the 34 victims who were discovered in Homs have been identified: Tamir Hamshu, Abdu Abdullah, Firas al-Turk, Ali Sulayman and Fawzi Sheikh Ma'mu.

The delegation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General to circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and to retain the attached reports so that interested delegations can consult them.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

* The reports referred to are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.